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SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1908.

Campaign Contributions

The Times-Dispatch will receive
 acknowledgments and forward to the
 treasurer of the National Demo-
 cratic Campaign Committee all sums
 sent it for this purpose.

MR. BRYAN'S TARIFF SPEECH.

In his speech at Des Moines, Mr.
 Bryan returns to the cause of tariff
 reform. It was as the champion of
 this cause that Mr. Bryan first became
 a national figure; it was in this cause
 he compelled the notice of serious, in-
 telligent men; in this cause became a
 leader of the Democratic party.

He attacks the principle of protec-
 tive duties where it is most weak;
 (1) that its beneficiaries are a limited
 few; (2) that its advantage to the
 laboring man is deceptive and does not
 really exist; (3) that to the agricul-
 tural and the vast body of consumers it
 is oppressive; (4) that it leads to cor-
 ruption and bargains between govern-
 ment and the protected interests.

Particularly forcible is Mr. Bryan
 in laying bare this last and progress-
 ively vicious consequence of high pro-
 tection. He shows the direct connec-
 tion, the hardly-concealed money part-
 nership between the Republican party,
 the manufacturers; the large cam-
 paign contributions paid by one in
 return for past favors and in antici-
 pation of favors to come by the other.
 While the rest of the country has un-
 fortunately forgotten it, the astute
 men at the head of the Republican
 party have jealously followed the ad-
 vice of Foster's famous "try the fat"
 letter to Stanley M. Quay.

Under the regime thus established the
 manufacturers write the tariff sched-
 ules and dictate to Congress what tax
 shall be levied on the consumer.

"The method of procedure is simple.
 It is a case of confidence. The voters
 have confidence in Republican leaders;
 the leaders have confidence in a Re-
 publican Congress; a Republican Con-
 gress has confidence in the Ways and
 Means Committee; the Ways and Means
 Committee has confidence in the men
 who represent the trusts and the trusts
 write the tariff law, and thus secure
 to themselves the right to levy tribute
 upon the public."

Can such a partnership be dissolved?
 asks Mr. Bryan. Is the Republican
 party willing, or, if willing, is it able,
 to give the measure of relief so ob-
 viously needed by the country? Its
 past history, its present membership,
 its present affiliations, forbid the hope
 that its delayed promise of reform
 will be carried out, except, as of old,
 in the interests of the lusty infant
 industries. He is an optimist indeed
 who can see any expectation of genu-
 ine reform at the hands of Joseph G.
 Cannon, Senator Aldrich and Messrs.
 Payne, Dabney, and Sherman.

Mr. Bryan enforces these cardinal
 truths: That the protective system is
 not right in principle; that it is not
 wise; that it is not necessary. But the
 change to a revenue basis should be
 gradual.

"The Democratic plan does not con-
 template an immediate change from
 one system to another; it expressly de-
 clares that the change shall be gradu-
 al. . . . We believe that the ex-
 perience the people have had with
 "protection for protection's sake" has
 led them to favor a restoration of the
 tariff by gradual steps to a revenue
 basis."

In awakening the American people
 to the necessity of tariff reform; in
 demonstrating the inequalities of its
 burdens; in making plain to them the
 fallacy of the arguments that support
 it, Mr. Bryan can do a great service.
 He has the equipment as well as the
 influence to perform it effectively. His
 own closing words should give him
 both guidance and hope:

"If the Republican party is to have
 the support of those who find a pecu-
 niary profit in the exercise of the
 taxing power as a private asset in
 their business, we ought to have the
 support of that large majority of the
 people who produce the nation's wealth
 in time of peace, protect the nation's
 flag in time of war, and ask for nothing
 from the government but even-
 handed justice."

MR. TAFT'S APPEAL.

Mr. Taft's long-heralded address to
 Virginia Republicans has been an utter
 disappointment to those who had looked
 for encouragement and help. Almost
 at the outset, Mr. Taft seeks to re-
 establish the Republican claim to be
 the party of prosperity. If Mr. Taft
 can find no better argument than the
 fact that the panic of 1893 was caused
 by the Gorman and Wilson tariff bill,
 he will have a hard time with Mr.
 Bryan before this campaign is finished.
 The panic of 1893 was caused by the
 Republican extravagance from 1883 to
 1892, by the Sherman silver purchase
 bill, which was conceived by a Repub-
 lican Senator and passed by a Repub-
 lican Congress. It was the silver
 legislation and practice which the Re-
 publicans had not enough courage or

capacity to kill that brought this
 country on the verge of bankruptcy
 in 1893, and not at all the Gorman
 and Wilson law, as Mr. Taft seeks to make
 appear.

It may be to the Republican nominee
 a slight matter that the usurpation of
 Federal authority should have been
 made the leading issue of the Demo-
 cratic platform of 1904, but to this
 paper, and we believe, a great ma-
 jority of Democrats in America, the
 most serious problem before the public
 to-day is that trend toward personal
 domination from Washington which
 President Roosevelt has so powerfully
 fostered.

Nor was Mr. Taft correct when he
 said a great number of Southern Demo-
 crats were wishing for the defeat of
 the ticket. If there is a Democratic
 paper from the Potomac to the Gulf
 which is not supporting the present
 platform heartily, we do not know it.
 This is true in the cities which are
 supposed to be the hotbeds of Demo-
 cratic revolt, and it is profoundly true
 in the country districts of Virginia,
 where the papers come much closer to
 the people and represent the public
 opinion more accurately. Mr. Taft
 says that if Jefferson were to return
 to life he would not recognize his
 reputed political descendants. We do
 not say he would; we do not claim that
 the Democratic platform at Denver em-
 bodies the sum total of Jefferson's
 ideas of political wisdom, as applied to
 modern conditions. But assuredly Jef-
 ferson would recognize in the Repub-
 lican party the incarnation of the evil
 that he feared would destroy this coun-
 try.

SAVE THE FISH.

The Norfolk Landmark, in striving
 to protect the food fish in Virginia,
 has joined in a crusade of incalculable
 importance to this State. Throughout
 the entire session of the Legislature
 The Times-Dispatch argued, urged,
 persuaded, and by every effort in its
 power sought to induce the Legisla-
 ture to protect and foster the oyster
 industry. The self-seeking of a few
 and the ignorance of many were amply
 sufficient to prevent the passage of a
 bill which only asked for a commission
 to determine which oyster bottoms
 were profitable to the State and which
 were not.

This question will not be settled until
 it is settled right, and we rejoice to
 see that so able a paper as the Nor-
 folk Landmark is lending its great
 influence to the discussion of another
 phase of this matter. As the Land-
 mark points out, the hog fish and the
 spot, which made the breakfast table
 of Virginia a delight to all visitors
 and a comfort and lasting joy to all
 who lived near the salt water, have
 practically been destroyed. These fish
 did not die in the noble cause of the
 trying pan; they were annihilated by
 the mercenary fertilizing companies,
 who, with spreading nets, have practi-
 cally stripped the waters of Virginia
 of all fish. Any one who will go up
 the Chesapeake Bay, or Mobjack Bay,
 or any of the tributaries, will see miles
 and miles of fish nets, into whose en-
 gulfing maws the eatable and uneat-
 able swim together to the fertilizer
 heap. We do not deprecate the wealth
 of Virginia's fields, forests or mines,
 but we believe that no State in the
 Union can derive a larger or more cer-
 tain income from the sea, or can add
 more to the happiness of its citizens
 than the State of Virginia, if it would
 only care for the oysters and fish
 which nature so lavishly supplied, and
 which are now being wantonly and
 uselessly destroyed. An oyster law
 like Connecticut's, for example, would
 do more for Norfolk than a factory
 with a gross output of \$3,000,000 per
 annum, and the Landmark can render
 no greater service to its city than by
 continuing to insist on the need of
 proper laws for the protection of the
 fish and oysters.

WONDERFUL FOREIGN TRADE.

For the seven-months' period ending
 August 1st the exports of this country
 declined \$88,000,000, as compared with
 last year; but for the same period the
 imports declined \$267,000,000—that is,
 the excess of exports over imports is
 \$179,000,000 greater for the first seven
 months of 1908 than for the first seven
 months of 1907. This extraordinary
 trade balance has been created by re-
 ducing the imports from foreign coun-
 tries in spite of the reduction in our
 exports. These figures are gratifying
 enough in themselves, but the promise
 of further increase of our foreign bal-
 ance is assured in the large agricul-
 tural crops this country will have for
 sale this fall.

It is also interesting to observe
 that our imports for the first seven
 months of this year were only
 \$65,000,000 below the imports for the
 same period of 1905, while our exports
 were \$132,000,000 above the same pe-
 riod. Furthermore, our imports for
 the first seven months of this year
 were greater than for the first seven
 months of any years in the history of
 the country, except 1905, 1904 and 1907,
 and were nearly double what they were
 in 1898. These figures leave no room
 to doubt that America is doing an
 enormous business at present, even
 though she is below the high-water
 mark of the strenuous years 1904 and
 1907.

MR. TAFT'S APPEAL.

Since children of Israel eat quail in
 desert no such tasty dish has been
 seen as the sora blown into Royal
 Richmond by that Virginia tempera-
 ture-cooling and humidity-evaporating
 storm Wednesday.

IF THE CHANCES ARE 64,000,000 AGAINST FINGER MARKS BEING THE SAME, AND 281,000,000 AGAINST A COMET HITTING THE EARTH, WHAT CHANCE HAS A WEEK AGAINST THE HIGH COST OF LIVING?

Walter Hans Wagner refused a tip be-
 cause "he didn't believe in that sort of
 thing." Perhaps not good enough to
 a young man, but assuredly will not do
 him.

That Altoona hotelkeeper whose hearing was restored by a stroke of lightning heard the flash.

Borrowed Jingles

SUMMER BOARDER'S RECREATIONAL.
 The tumult and the chatter cease,
 In fancy's realm a heavenly peace,
 Sweet stillness lulls both head and heart;
 The music of the sea is heard at set,
 Let us forget—let us forget!
 The shades and glazes of the sands
 Upon the winds have passed away;
 The sea-gulls and the gulls have passed;
 O'er the water, with the bath, a day,
 O'er the water, with the bath, a day,
 We'll just forget—let us forget!
 Another morn will open soon;
 Again vain errands we will run,
 Suit cases tote at humid noon,
 Play upon the water, and at fun—
 Play upon the water, and at fun—
 To desert islands yearn, And yet
 Seem to forget—seem to forget!
 To teach a fat girl how to swim,
 To row with the Merry Widow gey,
 To play upon the water, and at fun—
 To dance, play skat till break of day;
 Of some smart woman pose as pet,
 Yet know (in town) she'll soon forget!
 For rest and health how vain to yearn!
 To work on water with zeal and zest,
 That ebon waiter get your change,
 And glib hotel clerk claim the rest;
 Why muse the water, and at fun—
 As well forget—as well forget!
 —Along Town.

KNOCKING ALONG.

THIS up-to-date press agent is in doubt
 whether to stand with zeal and zest
 Young Turk or on an aeroplane.—New
 York Evening Post.

In his recent speech at Litchfield, Speaker
 Cannon took his text from the Bible, and
 quoted copiously therefrom. Still, all the
 words of the Scriptures are not equally
 ripe for quotation. His family name
 Cannon has found it handy at times.—
 Washington Herald.

For a singularly dull speech Mr. Sher-
 man had the merit of being short.—New
 York World.

That Esperanto Congress at Dresden is
 all Greek to the most of us.—Baltimore
 Sun.

It may not be long now before that fa-
 mous saying, "What is the Constitution but
 a piece of paper," will be translated into
 Turkish.—Washington Post.

SAVE THE FISH.

"Never since the flood has water reached
 such high tide as at present," says the
 dry candidate for President. Is he the
 wit of the campaign? Cold water
 means a wet campaign. In the case of the
 late Sir Wilfrid Lawson.—New
 York Sun.

Evidently the theatrical managers have
 a realizing sense of the size and impor-
 tance of New York. When it was decided
 to produce a play here they promptly
 arranged to bring two of him at the same
 time.—New York Herald.

CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE.

Lizzie Jenkins is learning stenography.
 Liz is smart girl all right, but in her
 opinion, would look better manipulating the
 zinc notes on her mother's washboard.

The wife of that new drug clerk at the
 Home Pharmacy washed a few chunks at
 the retail Friday evening. She was
 heard wailing. She would make a
 better hit with the lurch, however, if she
 would hit with the lurch. Looks too
 much like eating lice.

Although Charley Harris is so homely
 that his face keeps him awake nights, it is
 said that he is soon to wed the charming
 Ethel Hegan.

If we knew half as much as old man
 Thomas thinks he knows, we would
 know so much that a No. 8 hat on an
 old head would look like a thimble on an
 old thumb.—Boston Notes in Riv-
 ington (Wye) Republican.

The senior end of the Tribune force con-
 templates leaving town to-day and will be
 absent about four days. He needs a rest,
 and the only way to get it is to say
 the pencil, scissors and paste pot and go
 beyond the limits of the county, where the
 wife of the editor will be at his elbow,
 not to be heard calling for copy. The Old Re-
 liable, however, will be out on time as usual.
 —Lupkin (Tex.) Tribune.

MERELY JOKING.

"Am I the first girl you have ever loved?"
 "Dear, I—no."—
 "This summer?"
 "Darling you are!"—Houston Post.

"I do admire a man who can say no,"
 forcibly declared Nickerson.
 "Come in and have a drink," said Tight-
 wad, pouring the liquor into a glass.
 "No, thank you," said Nickerson.
 "Have you read Scott's novels?"
 "Miss Laker: 'All but his Emulations.' I
 have read them all. I have never been in
 Chicago, but I have never been in Chicago."
 "I do," said Tightwad, "but I haven't
 missed it."—Exchange.

"You can get most of the sensations by
 cleaning your nose with a towel," said
 "Father, was writing down on tablets of
 stone in the old days?"
 "Yes, my son," replied the dutiful parent.
 "Then, my son, I have to tell you that I
 have taken a crowbar to break the news."
 —New York Times.

"I remain to be seen," responded the
 guide, as he led the way into the mummy-
 rooms.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

"What are those files on those files on
 the window sill laughing at?"
 The moth Miller: "The cat has just put
 her paw on the flypaper."—Cleveland Plain
 Dealer.

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